

The bird remained at the same site until at least 5 April, and it was caught, ringed and photographed (Fig. 1a-c) by DB and DKR on 25 March. In the hand the mantle and back feathers were seen to be white basally, tinged beige-grey distally, and with extensive greyish-brown tipping remaining - especially on the crown and sides of the mantle (Fig. 1a-c). The black face mask extended over the base of the upper mandible, but in a band no more than 1 mm wide. The flight feathers, upper wing coverts, tertials and scapulars were blackish-brown, with small buff tips remaining on the primary and greater coverts, alula, secondaries and some lesser coverts, indicating that the bird was in its first year. The distal two thirds of the centre tail feather was black. Black was continuous across the tips of the outer two feathers and extended for 24 mm up the outer web of the outermost. It was confined, however, to narrow marks on the inner and outer corners of the second from centre feather, and on the outer corners alone of the third and fourth feathers, so that medially the second to fourth pairs of feathers were white to their tips (Fig. 1d). Measurements (mm) were: wing 93; P3 longest; P2 -5; P4 -4; P5 -2; P6 -7; P1, 3 > primary coverts. The bird weighed only 18 g when caught and carried little visible subcutaneous fat.

The whitish underlying colour of the upperparts and the practically white underparts would indicate that the bird was of the eastern race *O. h. melano-leuca*. This, as far as we are aware, is the first properly documented occurrence of this species in East Africa.

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RECENT COASTAL RECORDS OF THE WHITE-STARRED FOREST ROBIN *POGONOCICHLA STELLATA* IN TANZANIA

The White-starred Forest Robin ranges from the Cape Province of South Africa to isolated montane populations in northern East Africa (Oatley 1982a). Apart from coastal forests south of the Tropic of Capricorn it is basically a high-land species. Records from below 1000 m in the East Usambaras and a single one from 300 m in the Pugu Hills were presumed to have been wanderers (White 1962), although Stuart & Jensen (1981) gave several records from inland eastern Tanzanian forests below 500 m. Records from Mrima Hill (Britton, Britton & Coverdale 1980) during August and September included spotted immature birds. This local breeding population was assumed to have been sedentary.

During an ongoing study in the Pugu Hills (6.53S, 39.06E) near Dar es Salaam several additional records have been obtained. Observations include adults on 19 September 1981 and 11 September 1982 and two spotted juveniles around an ant swarm on 3 October 1981. Two adults were netted on 17 July 1983 and single juveniles netted on 21 August 1982 and 11 September 1983. Full mensural data are available for netted birds. Netting and regular visits by several birdwatchers in every month of the year since June 1981 have failed to reveal Forest Robins from November through to June. It is therefore suggested that the species is a scarce migrant breeder to the area.

In coastal Natal, Forest Robins do not occur during the wet months (Oatley 1982b). The rains around Dar es Salaam are concentrated from November to May, indicating a similar situation. From breeding data obtained in South Africa (Oatley 1982c) it seems likely that egg-laying in the Pugu Hills occurred in July.

These birds were not assigned to any race but *P. s. orientalis* is the most

likely of the seven races currently recognized for East Africa (Britton 1980, Britton *et al.* 1980). Further fieldwork may well clarify this.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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N.E. Baker, Box 1599, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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CORRECTIONS

David Moyer has kindly written in to correct two errors.

In *Scopus* 6, p. 36, 1st paragraph, 7th line: should be *Euphorbia obovalifolia*

In *Scopus* 7, p. 51, 'A record of the Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata* from Lake Sundu in southwestern Tanzania', 1st line: the date should have been 11 September 1981.

We are most grateful to him for correcting these mistakes which were in the MS.



NOTICE

6th Pan African Ornithological Congress
Botswana 1985

From Circular No. 1, May 1984

The Congress will be held at the Motel Marang, 4 km outside Francistown, from Friday 29 March to Thursday 4 April 1985.

★ *All rates are per person and are in US\$, SA Rand, Botswana Pula* ★

REGISTRATION FEES: Congress delegates 90 up to 31 October 1984
120 after that date

For wives/spouses (no copy of the Proceedings supplied) 50 up to 31 October
1984 and 75 after that date.

ACCOMMODATION COSTS: five categories will be available, full details in the circular. Briefly, the Motel Marang provides Luxury Chalets, Regular rooms, Tented Accommodation and camping facilities for those bringing their own camping equipment. In addition, Thalapama Lodge, 4 km away, offers single and double rooms; no singles are available at Motel Marang.

Costs range from 12.50/night camping, own gear to 60 full board in a Luxury Chalet at the Motel Marang and 63 dinner, bed and breakfast at Thalapama Lodge in a single room.

Details from Ken Newman, Box 65426, Benmore 2010, South Africa (for those in southern Africa) and Don Turner, Box 48019, Nairobi (for all others).